

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
FOR THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY)	
RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS)	
(COVID-19) PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
)	NO. 2021-03

THIS MATTER comes before the Court on the public health emergency in the City of Gig Harbor, Pierce County, State of Washington:

WHEREAS, Pierce County and Gig Harbor have seen a spike in new COVID-19 cases. On September 8, 2021 Pierce County Health Department reported the 14-day case rate per 1,000 was 665.6 for the period August 17 through August 30, 2021. This is substantially higher than one year ago when the Court had in place an order suspending all in-court hearings and jury trials, and the highest case rate since the pandemic began. (See Pierce County Health Department COVID-19 data update for September 8, 2021.)

WHEREAS Gig Harbor Municipal Court continues to take appropriate steps to make the courthouse environment safe. The Court is convinced that disruptions with jury service are likely based on the lack of controls the Courts have beyond the courthouse environment. The Court has a duty to protect the community at large, all Court employees, and all other city employees in the building.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Gig Harbor Municipal Court and Civic Center will remain open to the public. Court staff will be available by telephone and via email at court@cityofgigharbor.net.
2. All civil infraction hearings will be conducted by telephone or video conferencing until further notice to address the ongoing threat to the public health.
3. All criminal matters will be conducted by telephone or video conferencing to the extent possible until January 3, 2022. The Court reserves the right to

maintain or schedule in-person hearings when video or telephonic methods are not possible.

4. All jury trials in Gig Harbor Municipal Court are suspended until January 3, 2022. All currently scheduled jury trials shall be cancelled and calendared to the Wednesday immediately after the trial date. The Court at that time will hear input from the parties concerning when the new jury trial date will be scheduled.
5. The combination of the increase in the spread of COVID-19 and the serious danger posed by COVID-19 are good cause to continue criminal trials and constitute an unavoidable circumstance under CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8). Therefore, the time between the entry of the Emergency Administrative Order and the first court appearance after January 3, 2022 in Gig Harbor Municipal Court shall be excluded from calculation of time for trial.
6. This order may be amended or withdrawn as warranted to address the on-going public health emergency.

DATED this 14th day of September 2021.

Approved electronically by Judge Zenon Olbertz
Zenon P. Olbertz, Presiding Judge